

Schooner Meerwald partners with Zwaanendael Museum to present programs in Lewes, Del. during the summer of 2019

(DOVER, Del.–July 25, 2019)–The schooner [A.J. Meerwald](#), New Jersey's official tall ship, will be partnering with the [Zwaanendael Museum](#) to present a series of programs and sailing trips in Lewes, Del. during the summer of 2019.



Schooner A.J. Meerwald

On Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 11 a.m., the Zwaanendael Museum, located at 102 Kings Highway, will present Johann Steinke, captain of the Meerwald, reading from his children's book, "The Greatest Captain in the World." The book is comprised of stories written in real sailor vocabulary illustrated by drawings based on actual contemporary prints and paintings from the age of sail. Steinke has lived and worked aboard a wide variety of ships ranging from large, steel hulled square-riggers to the world's largest Viking ship replica. His program is designed to help visitors discover the joy of history, sailing and the sea.

On Friday, Aug. 29 at 10 a.m., historical interpreters from the Zwaanendael Museum will be aboard the Meerwald for a "Lewes Maritime History Sail," a special seaborne trip in which the interpreters will share maritime stories about the Cape Henlopen region including Cape Henlopen Lighthouse, the early Zwaanendael whaling colony and the sinking and recovery of the British warship DeBraak.

In addition, the Meerwald will be conducting morning, afternoon and evening sails on Aug. 2, 3, 4, 30, 31 and Sept. 1 in which visitors can help to raise the sails, engage in piloting the vessel and learn about the ship's historic role in the oyster industry. Afternoon and evening sails will also be held on Aug. 29.

All sails noted above will depart from the Lewes Ferry Terminal located at 43 Cape Henlopen Drive. Tickets may be purchased by going to the following: <https://bayshorecenter.org/sailing-schedule/>. Zwaanendael Museum patrons can receive a \$2 discount by using promo code **ZDE2019** when purchasing tickets. Advance purchases are recommended. Call 856-785-2060 for additional information.

The A.J. Meerwald is a restored oyster-dredging schooner whose home port is in Bivalve, Commercial Township, N.J. Launched in 1928, the Meerwald was one of hundreds of schooners built

along South Jersey's bayshore before the decline of the shipbuilding industry which coincided with the Great Depression.

Today, the Meerwald is used by the [Bayshore Center at Bivalve](#) for onboard educational programs in the Delaware Bay near Bivalve, and at other ports in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. The vessel was added to the National Register of Historic Places on Nov. 7, 1995.

The Zwaanendael Museum was built in 1931 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the state's first European colony, Swanendael, established by the Dutch along Hoorn Kill (present-day Lewes-Rehoboth Canal) in 1631. Designed by E. William Martin (architect of Legislative Hall and the Hall of Records in Dover), the museum is modeled after the town hall in Hoorn, the Netherlands, and features a stepped facade gable with carved stonework and decorated shutters. The museum's exhibits and presentations provide a showcase for Lewes-area maritime, military and social history.



Zwaanendael Museum

The Zwaanendael Museum is administered by the [Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#), an agency of the State of Delaware. The division enhances Delaware's quality of life by preserving the state's unique historical heritage, fostering community stability and economic vitality and providing educational programs and assistance to the general public on

Delaware history and heritage. The division's diverse array of services includes operation of five museums which are [accredited by the American Alliance of Museums](#), administration of the State Historic Preservation Office, conservation of the state's archaeological and historic-objects collections, operation of a conference center and management of historic properties across the state. Primary funding for division programs and services is provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware General Assembly and grants from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, a federal agency. However, the contents and opinions expressed in the division's programs and services do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Department of the Interior.



-End-

Contact:

Jim Yurasek

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Phone: 302-739-7787

E-mail: Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov

Web: <http://history.delaware.gov>